

Chemists and Chemistry at Generic Pharmaceutical Industry

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Success in pharmaceutical sector requires high degree of innovation and fundamental understanding of ways to connect the science and technology to the business. Such kind of expertise that scientists gain over the period of time helps them to deliver innovative products to the society through their profession. In due course, they leverage their learning and knowledge to fellow colleagues to practice out of the box thinking and strategies to strengthen the scientific acumen for profitability and uplifting the society through scientific deliberations.

Scientists need to demonstrate their leadership in product development areas by publishing research articles, patents and taking part in international conferences. Eventually, they may be able to make difference through research towards developing cost effective and affordable medicines.

Scientific leaders need to work with a group of highly qualified and skilled scientists in chemistry-R&D division to ensure the cost effective and innovative production of the medicines. Scientists must take responsibilities that incorporate route selection for cost effectiveness, scalability, extending technical support in documentation and execution of the experiments, monitoring, reviewing the progress of the project, coaching and mentoring the R&D teams thereby developing their technical capabilities and ensuring knowledge sharing that enable ensure robustness of the developed processes without compromising on the value addition and delivery timelines. In addition to this they are supposed to provide the chemistry inputs to the design strategy for formulation. In due course they also need to help scientists to address the queries to the regulatory deficiencies. Moreover, they need to work in close collaboration with the R&D, business development, engineering, analytical, intellectual property department, quality assurance/control, regulatory affair teams, external and internal review committees to compile relevant scientific information about the projects to seek expert opinion on to arrive at right synthetic route at the first place. It is equally important for scientists to involve in management of external and internal knowledge flow by establishing collaboration, attending

and organizing scientific events, creating knowledge database and disseminating the same across the value chain.

Most of the chemistry departments of generic industry practice “design around approach” in product development and by default it is understood that the “innovative science” can hardly compete with the current practices which are about merely taking the advantage of the opportunities that are beneficial to the organization but at the same time players use to miss the chance of bringing scientific capabilities to the organization. One may keep growing based on design around approach but it is imperative to visualize the situation in advance where opportunities will be limited or we may not have such things at all. It is not advisable for any R&D set up to stop taking the advantage of design around opportunities but at the same time one has to strike a balance between the two approaches (“design around” and “innovative”) that would enable an enterprise to have scientific and technical advantages over other competitors.

Culture at such kind of places must be amenable to motivate scientists, provide opportunity for technical excellence and create conducive atmosphere for science and scientists. Otherwise, due to lack of constant involvement, encouragement, and motivation, science and scientists both will be tuned to be ineffective.

Considering the structural complexity of the upcoming molecules it has become even more important to venture into advanced level of research and development than depending on trivial process development. However, seamless research can offer projections but not guarantee to bring success on day one. If we keep scientific momentum maintained, it is for sure that the sustainability may be brought into the organization sooner or later therefore, for long run we must explore to exist at least in critical areas. It is understood that the journey of exploration is going to be frustrating yet sustainable. Given the circumstances, we should be positive but not apprehensive because there is no absolute failure in experimental science.

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